

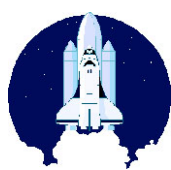


# countdown

May 20, 2008

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## Work on pad, in OPF preps space shuttles for next 3 missions



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

On Launch Pad 39A, fuel loading began as planned on space shuttle **Discovery** Friday and progressed without incident. Based on this, the pad was opened for some hydraulic test activities and preps for aft closure. On **Atlantis**, replacement of the side hatch thermal barrier is in progress, along with other thermal protection system and electrical work in OPF bay 1. On **Endeavour**, in OPF bay 2, window No. 6 was replaced.

◆ **ELV Update:** On Friday, the payload transportation canister was installed around NASA's Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope for transfer to pad 17-B at CCAFS,



which occurred Saturday. GLAST was then mated to the second stage of the Delta II. Launch is still targeted no earlier than June 3.

On Vandenberg Air Force Base in California last week, testing of OSTM/Jason-2 was successfully completed at the Astrotech payload processing facility. Fueling of the satellite with its hydrazine control propellant occurred Monday. The spacecraft is currently scheduled to be moved to the launch pad on June 2.

Liquid oxygen was loaded aboard to check the cryogenic systems of the first stage for leaks on Monday during a countdown dress rehearsal for the Delta II launch team. Today, a simulated flight

test, an electrical and mechanical test of the Delta II, will exercise all the launch vehicle systems as they will work after liftoff during the rocket's ascent to orbit.

### ■ Phoenix To Land May 25 —

NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander is preparing to end its long journey and begin a three-month mission to taste and sniff fistfuls of Martian soil and buried ice. The lander is scheduled to touch down on the Red Planet on Sunday.

Phoenix will enter the top of the Martian atmosphere at almost 13,000 mph. In seven minutes, the spacecraft must complete a challenging sequence of events to slow to about 5 mph before its three legs reach the ground. Confirmation of the landing could come as early as 7:53 p.m. Read more about it at: [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/13may\\_phoenix.htm?list947891](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/13may_phoenix.htm?list947891).



■ **2008 KSC BEST BBQ** — All KSC, CCAFS and PAFB employees and students are invited to the annual barbecue hosted by the

Black Employee Strategy Team, known as BEST, from 3 to 6 p.m. June 20 at KARS Park I (Area 2). Food will be served between 3:15 and 5 p.m. The barbecue fosters positive employee relations and welcomes summer students and faculty. Off-center guests are also welcome to attend. Along with the food, enjoy a car show, karaoke contests and cake walk prizes!

Food tickets are available now through June 13. (Prices increase \$2 June 12-13, so get yours early!)

## GLAST canned and moved to CCAFS pad 17-B

**Did You Know?** On this date in 1969, Princeton University announced it would admit women to its undergraduate program for the first time in its 223-year history!

- **Chicken or Ribs:** Employee: \$10/ Student: \$5
- **Chicken and Ribs Combo:** Employee: \$15/Student: \$10

Plates include meat, potato salad or slaw, baked beans, dessert and unlimited sodas and beer.

For tickets, see:

- **Maria Blanda**, 867-5978, HQ/2641B
- **Benita DeSuza**, 867-3671, HQ/3350D (student tickets only)
- **Wanda Petty**, 867-5188, HQ/2114B
- **Sena Jones**, 867-3950, HQ/3257E
- **Valarie Franklin**, 867-7051, O&C Bldg./1020A
- **Charmel Jones**, 867-2938, O&C Bldg./1073M2
- **Maxine Daniels**, 867-5976, SSPF/3228X
- **Linnette Daniels**, 853-9261, Hangar N/CCAFS
- **Patricia Johnson**, 476-3591, Hangar R/138
- **Debra Dukes**, 861-6609, RPSF/103

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